UMKC Visual and Performing Arts – Quick Facts

**DOWNTOWN ARTS CAMPUS**

- UMKC is the University of Missouri System’s flagship campus for the visual and performing arts.

- With the opening of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, and the inclusion of UMKC’s arts campus as one of the Chamber’s Big Five Ideas, KC is poised to build upon the arts as a foundation for a renewed downtown.

- A downtown campus for the arts would emulate creative energies associated with programs in Chicago, Boston, New York and San Francisco.

- The drive toward a downtown arts campus would coincide with the Kansas City Area Development Council and Kansas City Convention and Visitors Association plans to launch a coordinated national branding campaign for Kansas City as “America’s Creative Crossroads.”

- Helix Architecture + Design, Integra Realty Resources and HGA Architects and Engineers will conduct a feasibility study on the downtown arts campus. The firms will develop a preliminary program and cost estimate, look at potential downtown properties, develop site and concept plans and gather feedback from UMKC and the community. The study is expected to be completed by the end of March 2012.

**CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC AND DANCE**

- For more than a century, the UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance has been a leader in creating the city’s cultural riches and in extending UMKC’s reach nationally and internationally.

- The Conservatory’s mission is to advance creativity, performance, scholarship and learning in the arts while providing the highest level of professional instruction and an extensive array of performances.

- Numerous arts organizations were founded by UMKC faculty, alumni and students, including the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, the Kansas City Chorale, the Kansas City Ballet and the Kansas City Repertory Theatre.

- More than 100 Conservatory faculty and staff guide 600 students through a comprehensive range of undergraduate and graduate programs.

- Among its highly recognized faculty is Zhou Long, UMKC Conservatory Research Professor of Music Composition. Long was awarded a 2011 Pulitzer Prize for his opera “Madame White
Snake,” which draws on a Chinese folk tale to blend the musical traditions of the East and the West.

- The Conservatory presents 500+ events per year, including recitals, master classes, concerts, workshops and main stage productions.

- UMKC Conservatory students and faculty performed at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts on four occasions during the center’s first two weeks in operation.

- The Conservatory’s Community Music and Dance Academy reaches 2,400 students per year, ages 2 to 82, through lessons, ensembles, music camps, festivals and more. Part of a model urban research university, the Conservatory partners with a diverse range of educators, artists and organizations to expand audiences and sustain arts instruction for each child.

- The Conservatory embraces innovation and an entrepreneurial spirit in the creation of new works, in finding new ways to share emerging and established repertory, and in helping students develop a portfolio of career skills to navigate the 21st century.

**KANSAS CITY REPERTORY THEATRE**

- Kansas City Repertory Theatre increased the University’s presence downtown and enhanced its own standing as an arts leader by building Copaken Stage, a 319-seat, state-of-the-art theatre adjacent to the H&R Block Center at 14th and Main streets. Since the theatre opened in February 2007, the Rep has staged many world premieres and classic productions, including the nationally acclaimed musical “Venice” and “The Glass Menagerie.”

- Kansas City Repertory Theatre is the professional theatre in residence at UMKC. As partners in theatre and education for more than 40 years, the Rep and the University have a shared belief in stage artistry and craftsmanship.

- The Rep’s mission is to serve the greater Kansas City area as one of the nation's leading regional professional theatres by producing new and classic works that are diverse, literate, and timely, and by providing transformative educational and community services.

- The Rep produces seven mainstage plays and special events at Spencer Theatre on the UMKC campus and at Copaken Stage located in downtown Kansas City. The theatre employs more than 250 professional artists, technicians and administrators and serves more than 100,000 patrons annually.

- Kansas City Rep is the front door to the UMKC campus. Each year the theatre’s Education and Outreach Department works with school districts from the two-state region to bring more than 10,000 metro-area students to attend Rep productions and post-show discussions with theatre professionals. It also allows students to participate in workshops, actor forums and Rep on the Road theatre residencies. For many, it is their first visit to a college campus.

- The Rep is an important recruitment tool for the UMKC Theatre, whose students have the opportunity to work side-by-side with Rep professionals both on stage as actors and behind the scenes designing sound and lighting and building scenery and costumes.

- Theatre, Conservatory and other UMKC students also participate in Rep master classes, workshops, tours and classroom activities frequently taught by visiting artists of national distinction, such as Barbara Cook, Lynn Redgrave and Chita Rivera.
• Under the leadership of artistic director Eric Rosen, the Rep has been in the national spotlight, bringing attention to the excellent work created by the Rep at UMKC.

• The Rep’s original musical “Venice,” written and directed by Rosen, had its world premiere in Spencer Theatre. It was heralded by TIME magazine: “By Way of Kansas City, the Year’s Best Musical” and also ranked #2 on TIME’s annual list of “Top 10 Everything – Plays and Musicals.” “Venice” is now in development for an expected New York run, and all future productions will be credited to Kansas City Rep.

• The Wall Street Journal theatre critic has praised two recent Rep shows – “The Glass Menagerie” and “A Flea in Her Ear.” “The Glass Menagerie” was ranked #2 on the WSJ “Best Theatre” list.

UMKC THEATRE

• Since 1964, UMKC Theatre in the College of Arts and Sciences has trained and developed some of the finest theatre artisans working in the industry today.

• UMKC Theatre continues its rich tradition of mutually supportive academic, professional and community collaboration that was developed under the leadership of Dr. Patricia A. McIlrath.

• UMKC Theatre offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in a variety of disciplines, including acting, costume design, stage management, sound design, technical directing and scenic design.

• UMKC Theatre has been ranked by U.S. News and World Report among the top graduate theatre training programs in the country.

• Students are trained for careers in the performing arts and also produce numerous plays each season, including several in cooperation with other area theatre groups, including the Unicorn Theatre, Coterie Theatre, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, New Theatre Restaurant, Gorilla Theatre, American Heartland Theatre, Heart of America Shakespeare Festival, Martin City Melodrama and Kansas City Actors Theatre.

• The theatre program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST) and is a member of the University/Resident Theatre Association (U/RTA).

• Each year, UMKC Theatre presents six or seven full-scale graduate productions.

• In terms of recruiting, the MFA in Acting/Performance is UMKC Theatre's most competitive program. Each year, UMKC Theatre faculty interview more than 1,000 potential students and select fewer than 10.

• Unlike any other program in the U.S., the MFA in Acting/Performance offers classroom training and hands-on production experience, supports theatre that is engaged in public issues and provides individualized training to each student. The three-year program features training in acting, text analysis, ballroom dance, acrobatics, voice, movement, singing, stage combat and comedy.

• UMKC Theatre graduates have gone on to act, design, and stage manage for leading professional theatres, films and television studios across the country. As a senior costume designer for Walt Disney Entertainment, Doug Enderle (Master of Fine Arts in Design and Technology, 1981) designs and creates costumes for a variety of performers and characters.